

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 SSO-00 ISO-00 /016 R

66623
DRAFTED BY:S/S-O:A. HALE
APPROVED BY:S/S-O:G. TWOHIE
----- 028389

Z O 200455Z JAN 74 ZFF6
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO WHITE HOUSE
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 012693

TOSEC 262

WHITE HOUSE PLEASE PASS TO SAM 86970

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM SAIGON DATED JANUARY 20, 1974 SENT ACTION
SECSTATE WASHDC IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

S E C R E T SAIGON 0862

DEPT PLEASE PASS AS NECESSARY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, PFOR, VS, CH, PF
SUBJECT: PRC-GVN CLASH IN PARACELS

1. FROM THE FIRST REPORT OF PRC PRESENCE IN PARACELS WE HAVE
LOST NO OPPORTUNITY TO IMPRESS ON GVN OFFICIALS AT ALL LEVELS
(1) NECESSITY TO PLAY IT COOL (2) AVOID ANY ACTION THAT WOULD
LEAD TO ESCALATION (3) TRY TO MOVE CONFLICT IMMEDIATELY TO
DIPLOMATIC ARENA SUCH AS UNSC AND (4) THAT UNDER NO FORESEEABLE
CIRCUMSTANCES COULD WE FORESEE THE POSSIBILITY OF U.S. MILITARY
FORCE INVOLVEMENT IN ANY WAY. WE INDICATED THAT NEGATIVE
RESPONSES BE MADE TO JGS INITIAL INQUIRY FOR U.S. AERIAL RECON-
NAISSANCE AND, RELUCTANTLY, TO LATER INQUIRY WHETHER WE MIGHT

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ASSIST IN LOOKING FOR SURVIVORS. AMBASSADOR REITERATED FOREGOING

IN LONG CONVERSATION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER LATE SATURDAY.

2. UPON INITIAL ADVICE FROM AMCONGEN DANANG OF PRESENCE OF DAO CIVILIAN LIAISON STAFF ON ONE OF GVN SHIPS WE INSTRUCTED THAT KNOWLEDGE OF FACT OF HIS PRESENCE BE HELD TO ABSOLUTE MINIMUM. HE WAS TRANSFERRED ASHORE ON PATTLE ISLAND AND HOPEFULLY CAN BE WITHDRAWN WITHOUT PUBLIC NOTICE. HIS PRESENCE WAS CERTAINLY NOT FORTUITOUS, BUT ACCEPTANCE OF INVITATION FROM GVN FOR OBSERVATION ON WHAT WAS THOUGHT TO BE ROUTINE PATROL IS CONVINCING EVIDENCE THAT NEITHER RVN OR USG ANTICIPATED POSSIBILITY OF PRC ACTION.

3. BELIEVE PRESS GUIDANCE STRIKE RIGHT NOTE AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO STRESS WITH GVN POINT IN FIRST SENTENCE WITH WHICH WE WHOLLY AGREE.
MARTIN UNQUOTE RUSH

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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